

U.S. National Stage

Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, prior to the first paragraph which begins on line 2, please insert the following:

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

On page 1, prior to the second paragraph which begins on line 12, please insert the following:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph which begins on page 1, line 12 and ends on line 29, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Such a process and device is known from DE 33 45 937 A1 where the connecting line between an evaporation device and a condensation device cannot be shut off. To produce the desirable partial vacuum, the evaporation device is connected with at least one tank which is filled with untreated liquid, and provided at a height that is at least by the water column producible by the ambient air pressure above a water level, which tank is provided with a downpipe that is immersed in the water level and can be shut off. By opening the downpipe, liquid flows off causing a partial vacuum in the evaporation device if venting thereof is prevented, which partial vacuum is in this case passed on to the condensation device via the open connecting line. The required location of the tank at a high level and the immersing of the bottom end of the downpipe in an existing water level result in a relatively large overall height of the device and high constructional expenditure. Nevertheless, due to the existing connection between the evaporation device and the condensation device, the obtainable partial vacuum is relatively small. In addition, the liquid in which the downpipe is immersed may contain gas bubbles produced by gas emission etc., which may accumulate at the bottom end of the downpipe and then rise in it, which may result in a further deterioration of the obtainable partial vacuum.

U.S. National Stage

On page 2, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 1, please insert the following:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph which begins on page 2, line 1 and ends on line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~On these premises it is the~~ It is an object of the present invention to provide a process and a device as described initially above which ensure high evaporation output at a low boiling point and thus a high degree of cost effectiveness.

Please replace the paragraph which begins on page 2, line 4 and ends on line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to the invention, this object is achieved, in conjunction with ~~the a~~ process ~~described in the generic part, by the characterising part of claim 1~~ whereby an evaporating device and a condensor device have crude or clean liquid therein exposed to a partial vacuum created by volume enlargement under hermetically sealed conditions and further, in conjunction with the device ~~described in the generic part, by the characterising part of claim 8~~ whereby each evaporating device forms a vessel system comprising a pump unit connected with the bottom area of the evaporator device and having an operating chamber of variable size which vessel system can be filled with crude liquid when the operating chamber is reduced in size and is exposed to a partial vacuum in hermetically closed condition by enlarging the operating chamber, whereby the side of the condensation device forms a vessel system comprising a pump unit connected with the bottom area of the evaporation device and having an operating chamber of variable size, which vessel system can be filled with a clean liquid when the operating chamber of the condensation device vessel system is reduced in size and is exposed to a partial vacuum in hermetically closed condition by enlarging the operating chamber of the condensation device vessel system, and whereby a shut-off device is

U.S. National Stage

provided in the connecting line for releasing the connecting line only when the operating chambers are enlarged to maximum size.

Please replace the paragraph which begins on page 2, line 16 and ends on line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~Advantageous embodiments and expedient developments of the main-claim measures are evident from the sub-claims. Thus, the~~ The evaporation device may advantageously comprise a heater and a separator provided downstream thereof. Such an arrangement permits the direct or indirect heating of the raw water to be vaporised outside the separator, thus allowing a high degree of freedom of design.

On page 3, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 6, please insert the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 3, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 17, please insert the following:

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT